



# *The* **Springfield District Report**

*Elaine McConnell*  
*Springfield District*  
*Supervisor*



Summer, 2002  
Volume XII

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## **Elaine McConnell Re- ceives Prestigious Tran- sit Authority Award**

Supervisor McConnell recog-  
nized for years of commitment to  
public transportation

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## **Profile: Park Authority Board Appointee Ken Feng**

Bringing people together for our  
parks . . . [read more on page 4](#)

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## **Practice safe swimming and boating skills**

Follow these precautions for a  
safer and more enjoyable  
swimming and boating season

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## **County Enhances Quality of Stormwater Ponds**

County retrofits retention ponds  
and increases water quality

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## **Message from Supervisor McConnell**

The time is getting closer to November 5th when our citizens will be asked to vote on a half-cent sales tax increase to finance transportation improvements in Northern Virginia.

As many of you know, I was the first elected official to advocate such a referendum and my proposal included one-half cent for transportation and one-half cent for school construction. You see, I am a business woman as well as being your supervisor and it doesn't take a lot of figuring to understand you and I will pay for the roads and schools in one form or another.

Right now we pay for school construction through bonds which you approve through a referendum every few years. It is the only system we have in funding public projects. The problem with this method is there is a limit to our issuing of bonds to fund these needed facilities because of the debts they incur. Our county is lucky to have a AAA bond rating which saves us millions of dollars in interest. Even with this advantage, we must limit our spending to meet our county's debt service, i.e., the amount we can afford to pay back each year. For example, with the one-half cent increase I proposed to fund school construction, we would have saved 100 million dollars of taxpayer dollars over the next 10 years! That's what the bonds are going to cost us. Those who opposed the first attempt at passing the one cent tax increase that would have included schools and transportation never told this to the public!

The same is true for transportation. If we had approved the one-half cent increase in the sales tax for transportation needs and used, as I proposed, a pay-as-you-go method to fund those local projects that would have been listed, we could have saved 100 million dollars over the next ten years of tax payer money.

The referendum coming before you in November is totally different from the referendum I originally proposed, but it is probably our only hope of transportation improvements in the next 10 to 20 years. The

*(Continued on page 2)*

state budget is feeling the strains of a huge deficit and Fairfax County's transportation allocation was cut back severely this year. Our own county budget is seeing the effects of an economy that is unstable and changing each month. This leaves us with shortages and dependent on real estate taxes to fund 57% of our needs.

Our need to get more than 19 cents back on our dollar from Richmond is evident but not likely to change in the near future because of the state's financial problems and the fact we fund 27.4% of the state's budget.

We all know something must be done to improve our transportation problems here in Northern Virginia. We also know if this referendum fails, there will probably not be another chance in the near future to vote on our choice so we will be left to the decisions of the General Assembly to fund our needs. The possibility of having that happen is not good because of diminishing funds the state has to spread over the Commonwealth and the block of votes against us from the rural areas who depend on taxes from Northern Virginia to help support them.

This referendum could bring 5 billion dollars into the Northern Virginia area for roads, rapid transit and other improvements over a 20 year period. The money will stay in Northern Virginia and will NOT GO BACK TO RICHMOND as rumor suggests. It will cost our citizens about 75 dollars per year and will not be levied on food, prescription or non-prescription drugs.

This referendum should not be a political issue. This is a vote to allow us to decide whether we can live with our transportation system as it is now (and will remain the same for years to come) or whether we want to spend 75 dollars per family to improve our roads, transit system and other transportation needs. The choice is yours. I trust your judgment to do the right thing!

Sincerely,



## On Homeland Security

One of the most important issues I believe we face in Fairfax County is the Homeland Security issue. We were stunned at the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, but even more so at the attack so close to home when the Pentagon was hit.

Since that time, I have worked with a number of people to discuss the ways we can protect the citizens of our County. One of the main concerns I have found is the need for a joint communication center that would allow all of the public safety agencies to be housed together in one facility so that if another terrorist attack happened, we would have a unified force to react to the situation immediately and in a coordinated way.

I have met with our County staff, Fire, Police, the head of the State Homeland Security Agency, the Secretary of Transportation for the State, Congressman Frank Wolf, Senator John Warner and have been in touch with our other Congressional leaders in an effort to seek a location and funding for this facility. A location is now being considered that looks promising.

I moved the Board of Supervisors place this facility as its top priority in the upcoming bond referendum in the Fall and my motion passed unanimously.

I ask your support for the funding of this facility in the Fall bond referendum. It is a critical issue for our people. I will continue to work toward getting the joint communication center built in an expedited manner when the bond is approved.

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Visit us at our new satellite office in the Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 233

## Other News

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### Supervisor Elaine McConnell Recognized by Virginia Transit Association

On Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, during the annual conference of the Virginia Transit Association (VTA), in Virginia Beach, Supervisor Elaine McConnell received the 2002 “Outstanding Contributions by a Public Official” award. VTA comprises 54 transit properties or businesses related to the transit industry throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This past year, Supervisor McConnell served as Chairman for the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board. During the year, VRE experienced unprecedented ridership growth within Northern and Central Virginia. Supervisor McConnell’s efforts for public transportation, however, are not limited to this past year. In 1984, after she spearheaded dialogues with RF&P and Norfolk Southern Railroads for the use of their tracks, the commuter rail for Northern Virginia (VRE) was brought into being. Since then, Supervisor McConnell has been known throughout the Commonwealth as an advocate for public transportation.

She has served in many capacities, including the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (currently Vice Chairman), Fairfax Transportation Coordinating Committee, Chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee, as well as being appointed by Governor Gilmore to assess emergency and transportation needs for the state. Supervisor McConnell’s goal is to advance public transportation for all Virginians.

#### **Useful Links**

[Virginia Transit Online](#)

[Virginia Railway Express](#)

[Northern Virginia Transportation Commission](#)

### County Enhances Quality of Stormwater Ponds

The County has made a commitment to improve the quality of our streams. The County periodically repairs County-maintained stormwater dry ponds that have experienced structural failures that have caused them to no longer provide water quantity or quality benefits. The repairs are required to maintain compliance with the County’s federal/state permits and generally results in significant disturbance of the dam embankment, control structure, and pond floor. With these construction activities and associated restoration requirements, an opportunity has arisen to provide elements that enhance the water quality treatment, natural habitat, and aesthetics of the pond.

The Fairfax County Stormwater Management Division is actively retrofitting stormwater retention ponds throughout the County using additional Best Management Practice (BMP) devices to increase water quality. Examples of these Best Management Practices are (1) installation of sediment basins at the inlets, (2) removal of some or all of the concrete low-flow ditches, (3) installation of check dams in the portions of low-flow ditch that remain, (4) installation of shallow marsh pools planted with wetland grasses and other wetland and wet meadow plantings (e.g., herbaceous shrubs, ornamental trees), and (5) installation of modifications to the outlet structure and principal spillway.

The retrofit elements may vary from site to site and will generally conform to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation standards for the installation of shallow marsh wetlands. If you would like more information regarding the retrofitting of stormwater retention ponds in your community, please [contact our office](#).



# Boards, Authorities and Commissions News

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## Ken Feng: Park Advocate

Ken Feng represents Springfield District as Supervisor McConnell's representative to the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. In addition to his normal board duties, Ken is also the board's treasurer and chairs the Resource Management Committee; a committee entrusted to protect our natural habitats and to enhance our cultural resources. He counts as his most important contribution to our parks his ability to bring people together to achieve a common goal, specifically the development of the master plan for South Run Park. Ken believes the greatest future challenge of our parks will be the balance among various constituencies that use the facilities. For example, those persons who are passive users who simply enjoy nature and those individuals who are active users including athletic groups, golfers and dog owners. He not only is an incredible advocate for the parks but also takes pride in using the facilities himself at every opportunity. Ken's favorite park is Burke Lake because it has amenities for everyone and helps bring families together for a variety of activities.

In addition to his busy schedule of volunteer activities, Ken also works for the General Accounting Office (GAO) as a criminal investigator, working to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in government programs. He started his professional career as an officer with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, completing a law degree during his off duty hours. Ken also worked for the Orange County District Attorney's Office and the Solicitors Office in the Department of Interior before joining the GAO.

Ken was recently selected to represent Springfield District as our 2002 Lord Fairfax honoree. This award is richly deserved because of all Ken's work to make Fairfax County a better place in which to live and work. Ken and his wife Alice live in Burke and are the proud parents of two lovely children.

## Volunteer Opportunities Available!

If you would like to be the Springfield District appointee to one of the following commissions, please let us know by contacting Dianne Peikin at (703) 451-8873 or by [e-mail](#).

- Community Improvement Committee
- Commission on Aging
- Board of Building Code Appeals
- Fairfax Area Disability Service Board
- Tree Commission
- Commission on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation
- Oversight on Drinking & Driving

For further information on these commissions, see the Boards, Authorities and Commission [Website](#).

## CONTACT US

The *Springfield District Report* is distributed electronically in **Winter** (December-February), **Spring** (March-May), **Summer** (June-August), and **Fall** (September-November).

If you are interested in receiving your free copy of the *Springfield District Report*, please send us an [e-mail](#). In the subject line of the e-mail, please type "subscribe." In the body of the e-mail, please include your name, address, and phone number (optional).

West Springfield Government Center  
6140 Rolling Road  
Springfield, Virginia 22152  
Phone: (703) 451-8873

## News You Can Use

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Summer is here and once again, it is time for swimming and boating. Avoid tragedy by following safety rules, practicing safe swimming and diving skills and recognizing hazardous situations. Remember, most water-related injuries are preventable. Follow these precautions for a safer and more enjoyable swimming and boating season, courtesy of the Red Cross and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department:

- Learn to swim. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. This includes anyone participating in any boating activity.
- Watch the weather and local news programs: Know local weather conditions and prepare for electrical storms. Stop boating as soon as you see or hear a storm.
- Always supervise children in and around the water.
- Obey posted safety rules.
- Have adequate flotation devices on hand in case of emergencies.
- Recognize signs of fatigue, especially in children.
- Never leave children alone or out of eye contact while they are in or near water.
- Always use approved personal-flotation devices, rather than inflatable toys, to keep your child afloat.
- When boating and fishing, look for the label: Use Coast Guard-approved life jackets for yourself and your passengers.
- Develop a float plan. Anytime you go out in a boat, give a responsible person details about where you will be and how long you will be gone. This is important because if the boat is delayed because of an emergency, becomes lost, or encounters other problems, you want help to be able to reach you.
- If you own a pool, insist that all adults in your family learn CPR. Discuss pool rules, safety measures and procedures, water depths, with your guests before they enter the water.
- With aboveground pools, hot tubs, and spas secure and lock steps and ladders leading from the ground to the recreational area, or remove them completely when the facility is not being used.
- Always use a locked safety cover when spas and hot tubs are not in use and keep young children away unless there is constant adult supervision.
- Make sure spas have dual drains and drain covers required by current safety standards.
- Regularly have a professional check your spa or hot tub and make sure it is in good, safe working condition, and that drain covers are in place and not cracked or missing. Check the drain covers yourself throughout the year.
- Know where the cut-off switch for your pump is so you can turn it off in an emergency.



# Land Use and Transportation News



## Community Meetings and Public Hearings

For information on pending land use applications (rezonings, special exceptions, proffered condition amendments, etc.), Land Use Committee meetings, and hearings before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, see our [website](#).



## Site Plans

For information on submitted site plans to the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, see our [website](#).

The purpose of providing this information is to give our constituents information on current or pending construction in their neighborhoods. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list; the scope of this information covers only the *Fairfax Center Area of the Springfield Magisterial District*.

### Road Improvement Projects

The construction contract for phase two of the Route 123 road improvement project has been awarded to Apac Construction Company of Manassas, Virginia. This phase of the improvement project encompasses the portion of Route 123 between Lee Chapel Road and Davis Drive. Preliminary construction activities could start as early as August 2002. This phase of the project should be completed by the summer of 2004 at a cost of \$15.2 million.

Burke Lake Road and Rolling Road remain on VDOT's Secondary System Construction Program. Widening of Burke Lake Road to four lanes between Lee Chapel Road and the Fairfax County Parkway is scheduled for a spring 2004 construction startup.

The widening of Rolling Road between Old Keene Mill Road and Hunter Village Drive has been moved forward to 2008.



### Fairfax County Parkway (Rt. 7100)/Fair Lakes Parkway (Rt. 7700) Improvement Project

The [Virginia Department of Transportation](#) (VDOT) held a citizen information meeting on June 4 providing a brief presentation on preliminary design concepts for an interchange at the Fairfax County Parkway and Fair Lakes Parkway. VDOT, design firms and Fairfax County staff were all on hand to respond to questions and concerns.

The Fairfax County Parkway is proposed to be widened within the existing median to six lanes (three through lanes in each direction) between I-66 and Route 50. Due to the close proximity of Fair Lakes Parkway to the existing interchanges at I-66 and Route 50, an additional auxiliary lane will be required in each direction between interchange ramps (I-66 to Fair Lakes Parkway, and Fair Lakes Parkway to Route 50). Beginning at Fair Lakes Parkway, a multi-purpose trail is anticipated along the east side of Fairfax County Parkway with a connection to the existing trail at

Rocky Run Stream Valley Park. The North Lake intersection with Fairfax County Parkway is proposed to be eliminated for safety and traffic purposes. The proposed improvements are consistent with the transportation element of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan. There is currently no funding identified for the construction of the proposed interchange.

## from our readers . . .

Q Several members of our community board met this evening in response to a letter from our landscape maintenance contractor saying that the price to water community common areas was increasing because of low pressure and the longer time required.

We determined that low water pressure was a community-wide problem --- and were concerned that (1) current low water pressure may impair firefighting in the neighborhood and (2) continued heavy residential construction in the area may tax water distribution resources, increasing the problem and risk.

I assume that there is a minimum pressure required by county code or regulation. How can we assure that this is met (and considered in infrastructure construction)?

A According to the Fairfax County Water Authority, the minimum required pressure is regulated by the State of Virginia Health Code at 20 lbs per square inch. Water is delivered at 66 lbs per square inch and is lower *only* in those areas that are further and at higher elevations from the pumping station. However, the water pressure may be lower at your kitchen tap because most homes have a reducing pressure valve to reduce the pressure coming into their home. The Water Authority also reviews site plans for sufficiency prior to plan approval.

Please be assured that the Water Authority reviews all aspects of water supply including fire suppression needs and normal and peak household demands prior to plan approval. Check with your landscape contractor for further information regarding the low pressure that he is experiencing. You may also contact Russ Sawyers at the Fairfax County Water Authority at (703) 289-6180 or [rsawyers@fcwa.org](mailto:rsawyers@fcwa.org) if you have additional questions on this issue.

## did you know that . . .

Effective July 1, 2002, an amendment to the Virginia Property Owners Association Act places more stringent requirements on Homeowners Associations (HOAs). Under (new) [Code of Virginia](#) section 55-214.1 *Reserves for Capital Components*, HOAs are required to conduct a reserve study at least once every five years to determine the necessity and amount of reserves required to repair, replace, and restore capital components. The study is to be reviewed by the HOA Board annually to verify whether reserves are sufficient and/or if adjustments are necessary. HOA Boards should ensure their minutes reflect the fact that the review has been accomplished. HOAs should contact their Property Management Company, attorney, accountant, or the Fairfax County Community Association Liaison, Cal Wagner, at (703) 324-5977 or the Virginia Real Estate Board's Community Association Liaison, Cynthia Shrier, (804) 367-2941.

## calendar of events

### july

22 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**

### august

5 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**

5 *Land Use Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Rooms 2 & 3*

7 *[The Net](#)\*\* visits Luray Caverns, 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$7.00 per teen and includes lunch*

15 *[The Net](#)\*\* goes to Haines Point, DC for their End of Summer Blast '02. Cost is \$3.00 per teen and includes a cook-out*

### september

9 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**

9 *Land Use Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Room 10*

23 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**

*\*The Board of Supervisors meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Auditorium at 12000 Government Center Parkway*

*\*\*Irving Middle School, 8100 Old Keene Mill Rd.*